

Edwards: House Passes \$23 Billion in Emergency Funding for Disaster Relief Efforts Under Final 2009 Spending Bill, Much Will Go Toward Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery

(WASHINGTON, DC) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced that House passed \$22.9 billion in emergency disaster aid, much of which will go toward Hurricane Ike recovery efforts along the Texas Gulf Coast. The emergency funds were included under the final 2009 funding bill, which passed the House xxx to xx and is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law by the President this week.

“In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, it is vital that this emergency funding moves quickly toward relief efforts in the Texas Gulf Coast region,” said Edwards, who took a lead role in crafting the emergency hurricane funding as the senior Texas member on the House Appropriations Committee. “Throughout this process, the Texas congressional delegation has been united, working closely with state and local officials to help the people of the Texas Gulf Coast begin to recover from this devastating hurricane. During most of the process, the Bush Administration was opposing adequate funding for disaster relief, but the solid bipartisan congressional commitment forced them to back down.”

“During this national tragedy, the victims of Hurricane Ike, who lost their homes and their livelihoods, need federal, state and local authorities to continue to work together diligently to protect and assist those in need. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.

“While the destruction caused by this tragedy is vast, the faith and determination of the American people ensure that we will rebuild our homes, businesses, and community.”

Edwards is the senior Texas member on the House Appropriations Committee.